

SAM HOUSTON HOME  
IN WAGONER COUNTY NEAR FT. GIBSON, OKLA.

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO 34  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY  
LEON B. SENTER, DISTRICT OFFICER  
307 PHILTOWER BLDG. TULSA, OKLA.

SAM HOUSTON CABIN  
About three miles north of Fort Gibson  
Wagoner County, Oklahoma

Owner: C.W. Clay (tenant).

Date of Erection: Before 1829.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Poor.

Number of Stories: One and a half.

Materials of Construction: Wood; stone chimney.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

## SAM HOUSTON'S HOME

### NEAR FORT GIBSON, OKLAHOMA

Sam Houston came to the vicinity of Fort Gibson in the Spring of 1829 and domiciled himself in a log and frame house which he called "Wigwam Neosho", two or three miles north of Fort Gibson. This house is now owned by The Yahola Sand and Gravel Co. of Muskogee, who purchased it from Walter Scott of Fort Gibson.

During his residence here Houston took to his home Diana Rogers, and it was understood throughout the tribe they were married. No evidence of a formal marriage ceremony has been discovered, but it is likely the relation they assumed was regarded among the Indians as a marriage.

For sentimental reasons, in recent years, the remains of a woman, long buried near Fort Gibson, were reinterred in the National Cemetery at Fort Gibson under the name of Talihina, the wife of Sam Houston. Mrs. Kagy, of Fort Gibson, states that when Talihina's remains were unearthed the bones were in a good state of preservation, but only one iron nail of the casket could be found.

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Sam Houston lived here until 1832 when he removed his activities to a larger field in Texas. While living here he maintained a trading store in his house and was often seen at Fort Gibson. By reason of his trading business he became intimately acquainted with many of the Indians of the Cherokee and Creek Nations, and in later years endeavored to capitalize his friendship with the Indians by enlisting them in his plans and adventures in Texas. (For extended accounts of Sam Houston and his residence here see Grant Foreman, Pioneer Days in the Early Southwest (Cleveland, 1926); "Some New Light on Houston's Life Among the Cherokee Indians", by Grant Foreman, Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. IX, page 139; The Raven, by Marquis James, (Indianapolis, 1929).

A silver dime dated 1829 was found a short distance southwest of the house by a child of the present tenants.

A rock foundation of an "L" shaped house was plowed into recently northwest of Houston's cabin. In the ruins were found two saucers and a cup of early China Haviland ware. No one we talked with could remember ~~as~~ any building being located at this foundation.

The tenant, Mr. C. W. Clay, stated that while plowing in the front yard one of his mules broke through the ground in two

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different locations and, due to rumors of gold being buried on the place, he excavated only to find the bones of a man that had been buried in a cramped position. The bones were covered with lime and according to Mrs. George McConnell of Tulsa, was a small pox victim. She states that people dying with small pox were always covered with lime to keep the disease from spreading.

The second excavation was about two feet wide and twelve feet long and was full of bones. An old Indian at one time told Mr. Clay that during the early Territorial days a cave near the Houston Home was used as a bootlegging joint. The proprietor employed a big negro to maintain order. At one specific time seven Creek Indians were in the cave; all were intoxicated and somewhat troublesome. The proprietor, an expert knife thrower, instructed the negro to go down and throw these Creeks out as he called for them, while he, himself, would stand a short distance in front of the cellar entrance. As each Creek came out he threw a long bladed knife into each of them. The old Indian said they were all buried out in front of the cellar entrance. There is no grass growing over this spot and Mr. Clay says he has never been able to get anything to grow there.

Walter Scott of Fort Gibson, and former owner of the Houston Home, asked the Survey squad if ~~he~~<sup>they</sup> noticed a large stain of blood

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on the floor by the door in the east room. They had not, due to a floor having been replaced in more recent years. He stated that the Cherokees had an iron clad law against stealing. The officials who administered the law belonged to a secret organization called the Ka-Too-Ays. When someone violated the law the Ka-Too-Ays would hold a meeting of all the members. Their names were placed in a hat and three names were drawn, the three whose names were drawn were the executioners for the particular case at hand. A tenant of the Houston Cabin at one time was accused, and three men from the Ka-Too-Ays rode out to the Houston House, called the tenant to the door and as he appeared all three fired and rode off leaving the offender dying on the floor.

It is not known the exact year in which this cabin was erected nor by whom.

Historical Data furnished and/or edited by:

Grant Foreman  
1419 W. Okmulgee Ave.  
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Signed Grant Foreman

Approved

Leon B. Center  
District Officer

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.